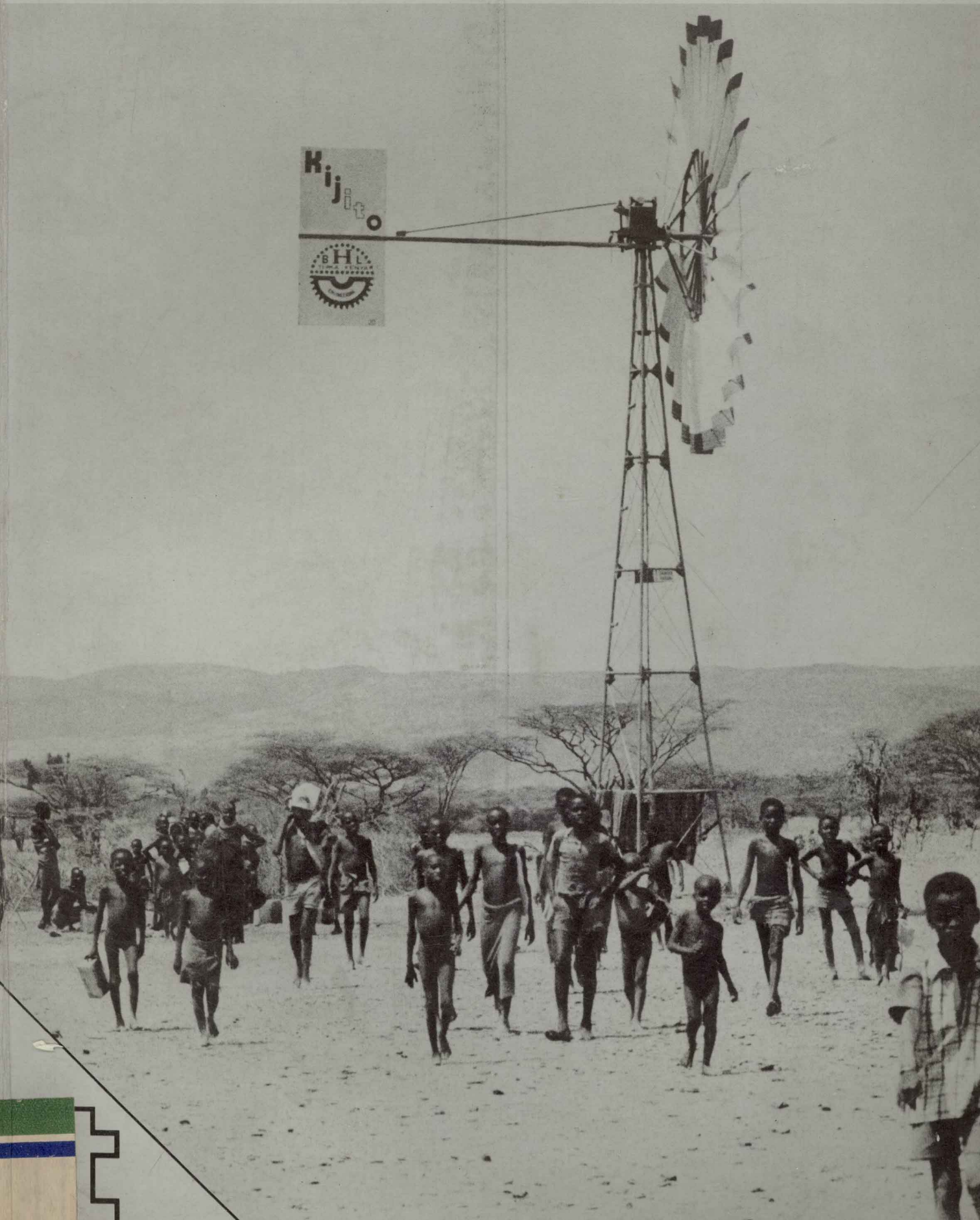


WINDPUMPING HANDBOOK

Sarah Lancashire, Jeff Kenna and Peter Fraenkel



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Fraenkel**

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Preface

Windpumping is an established technology, with over one million windpumps in use worldwide. A windpump needs no fuel, little maintenance and it usually lasts 20 years or more. Designs exist which are suitable for small-scale local manufacture. The aim of this handbook is to help potential users and decision makers take advantage of the benefits that windpumps can offer.

This handbook was first written for a windpump familiarisation seminar held in Nairobi in November 1986. The seminar was organised and presented by I.T. Power, hosted by the Ministry of Water Development of Kenya and funded by the Overseas Development Administration.

Contents

	Page
Preface	
List of Figures	
List of Tables	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose of this Handbook	1
1.2 Windpump technology is time-proven	2
A brief history of windpumps	
Past experience with windpump designs	
1.3 The wind energy resource	5
The effect of wind speed	
The effect of air density	
Energy availability	
How to find the amount of energy available from the wind	
1.4 Choices of energy resource	9
2. WINDPUMP DESIGN - STATE OF THE ART	11
2.1 Principles of wind energy conversion: Lift and drag	11
2.2 Rotor design	13
Pitch	
Solidity	
Tip-speed ratio	
Performance coefficient	
Torque	
2.3 Pump types	17
2.4 Transmissions, tails and towers	21
Transmissions	
Tails	
Towers	
2.5 The feasibility of local manufacture	23
The advantages	
Criteria for success	
Types of design suitable for local manufacture	
3. SITE EVALUATION	25
3.1 Assessing the wind regime	25
The wind regime parameters needed	
Wind measurement	
Quality of wind data	
Measurement options	
Choosing the windpump site	

3.2	Assessing the water requirement	35
	Water for domestic use and animals	
	Water for irrigation	
	How to find the pumping head	
	Borehole yield	
3.3	Sizing the windpump	44
	Volume-head product	
	Sizing the rotor	
	Sizing nomogram	
	Sizing the pump	
3.4	Storage requirement	49
4.	IS A WINDPUMP THE BEST OPTION?	52
4.1	The decision route	52
4.2	What are the alternatives?	54
	Diesel engines	
	Solar pumps	
	Handpumps	
	Animal pumps	
4.3	Social and institutional factors	58
	Practical factors	
	Social factors	
	Institutional factors	
4.4	Costing the options	61
	Economic or financial assessment	
	Life-cycle costing	
	Example financial assessment	
5.	PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION	69
5.1	Specifying and procuring	69
5.2	Installation	70
	The site	
	Receipt of windpump	
	Borehole construction	
	Windpump foundations	
	Erecting the tower and assembling the rotor	
	Building the storage tank and delivery pipe	
	Fences	
5.3	Maintenance and repair	74
5.4	Safety	75
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	76
	GLOSSARY	77

List of Figures

	Page
1. Horizontal-axis, multi-bladed windmill	2
2. Three-bladed horizontal-axis windmill	3
3. Schematic diagram of Savonius rotor	3
4. Panamones	4
5. Schematic diagram of Darrieus wind turbine	4
6. Global annual average wind speeds	6
7. Approximate shaft energy output of a windpump rotor for various wind speeds	8
8. A boat propelled by the drag force of the wind	11
9. A boat propelled by the lift force of the wind	11
10. The relative sizes of lift and drag forces for blunt and streamlined objects	12
11. Generation of lift by an aerofoil	12
12. Schematic diagram showing angle of pitch of a rotor blade	13
13. Change of blade pitch with radius	13
14. Typical torque versus tip-speed ratio and performance coefficient versus tip-speed ratio curves for rotors of varying solidity	16
15. Schematic diagram to illustrate the effect on windpump operation time of the high starting torque	17
16. Schematic diagram of a reciprocating positive displacement pump (piston pump)	19
17. Schematic diagram of a rotary positive displacement pump (progressive cavity or 'Mono' pump)	19
18. Typical head, flow and efficiency curves for positive displacement pumps	20
19. Schematic diagrams showing the furling action of a wind rotor in strong winds (bird's eye views)	22

20. Schematic diagram showing approximate wind acceleration factors over a hill	27
21. Sea breezes	28
22. Flow chart outlining the steps to be taken when processing wind data	31
23. Area of turbulence around a building	33
24. Area of turbulence around trees	33
25. Effect of ground friction on wind profile	34
26. Wind profile changes over trees, etc.	34
27. Schematic diagram to show selection of tower heights to achieve even wind speeds across the whole rotor	35
28. Soil moisture quantities	38
29. Rate of crop growth as a function of soil moisture content	39
30. Schematic diagram showing pumping head	41
31. Flow chart outlining the steps necessary to size a windpump	45
32. Windpump rotor sizing nomogram	47
33. Typical charts for pump sizing by head and average wind speed	49
34. Cost of water storage depends on the volume	50
35. Steps required to choose the most appropriate water pumping technology	53
36. Typical fuel consumptions for small diesel engines	55
37. Number of handpumps required as a function of water requirement	57
38. Number of oxen required as a function of water requirement	58
39. Flow chart showing the steps to be taken in financial assessment	65

List of Tables

	Page
1. Altitude correction factors for air density	7
2. Countries known to be manufacturing windpumps in 1986	10
3. Coefficients for the effect on wind speed of different ground roughnesses	26
4. Daily water requirement of farm animals	36
5. Population increase for various annual growth rates	37
6. Typical irrigation water requirements for Bangladesh and Thailand	40
7. Headloss in metres per 100m of pipe length for various flow rates and diameters.	43
8. Discount factors for various discount rates and numbers of years (zero inflation)	63
9. Discount factors for recurrent costs which have to be paid annually over a number of years, for various discount rates (zero inflation)	63
10. Advantages and disadvantages of various construction methods for storage tanks	73

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Handbook

Water for people, animals and crop irrigation is an essential need in every country. Frequently this water has to be pumped from the ground; the pumping requires energy. In rural areas this energy has traditionally been provided by people operating hand pumps or animal pumps. Where mechanized power is available it is most commonly an internal combustion engine burning petrol or diesel oil. Recently there has been a growing interest in the new technology of solar-powered water pumps and a revival of interest in windpumps.

There are many good windpump designs, both traditional and modern lighter weight ones, currently available. These machines have high performance and good reliability. The purpose of this Handbook is to provide decision-makers and potential users of windpumps with the basic information on present-day:

- windpump technology
- economics
- sizing to meet domestic or irrigation demand
- procurement
- installation
- maintenance.

It has been assumed throughout the Handbook that the reader is familiar with the basic concepts and units of energy, power, flow, density, etc. A comprehensive bibliography is appended for those readers who wish to study windpumps in greater depth.

1.2 Windpump technology is time-proven

A brief history of windpumps

The ancient Egyptians used wind power 5000 years ago to propel boats. It is uncertain when wind power was first used on land to power rotating machinery but it is estimated to be about 2000 years ago. Historical records show that windmills definitely existed in 200 BC in the area now known as eastern Iran and western Afghanistan. This area receives constant winds from the steppes of Central Asia during and after harvest time each year, called the "Wind of a Hundred Days". The Chinese have used windmills for low lift paddy irrigation for many centuries.

About 1000 years ago horizontal-axis sail windmills were being used around the Mediterranean. By the 12th century windmills had reached northern Europe. They became an important part of the industry of both Britain and the Netherlands in the centuries that followed. In Britain they were mostly used for milling grain; in the Netherlands many were used for dewatering polderland.

By the 18th century windmills were one of the highest forms of technology. They could produce 30-40 kW of power (which is about the same as the power of a small motor car). With the advent of steam power and later the internal combustion engine in Europe, the incentive to develop windmills disappeared. Instead, windmill development continued in the USA. In the mid 19th century settlers were moving into the Great Plains where there was a shortage of fuel and transport was difficult. With the need for water and the steady, regular wind across the Great Plains, windmills were an ideal technology. By the 1880's the familiar all-steel American multi-bladed farm windpump had evolved. It looked not much different from many that are still in production today.

Past experience which has led to the adoption of present-day windpump designs

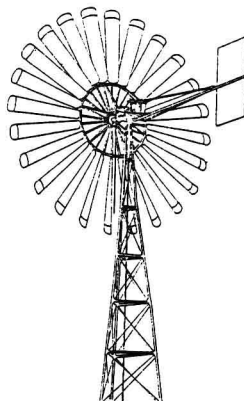


Figure 1:

**Multi-bladed
horizontal-axis
windmill (side
view)**

Most modern efficient windpumps are horizontal axis, multi-bladed (see Figure 1). Other designs have been tried in the past and have proved less satisfactory for water pumping. They are briefly described below:

2- or 3- bladed horizontal-axis windmills are used for electricity generation. They are not suitable for water pumping directly because

1. they cannot produce enough torque to start a piston pump working; and
2. they rotate too quickly to directly drive a reciprocating pump. These wind turbines are also more difficult to manufacture owing to the precision engineering needed.

However they could be used indirectly for water pumping by generating electricity and using this to drive electric pumps. This option is expensive but may be suitable for some locations or when a large amount of power is needed.

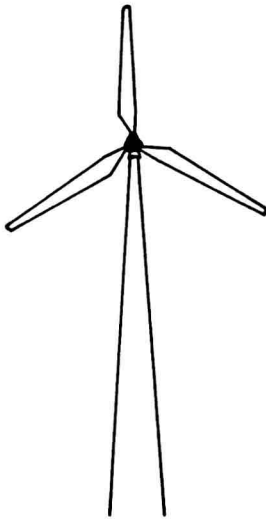


Figure 2: Three-bladed horizontal-axis windmill (side view)

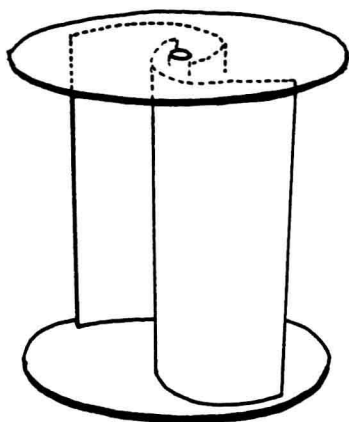
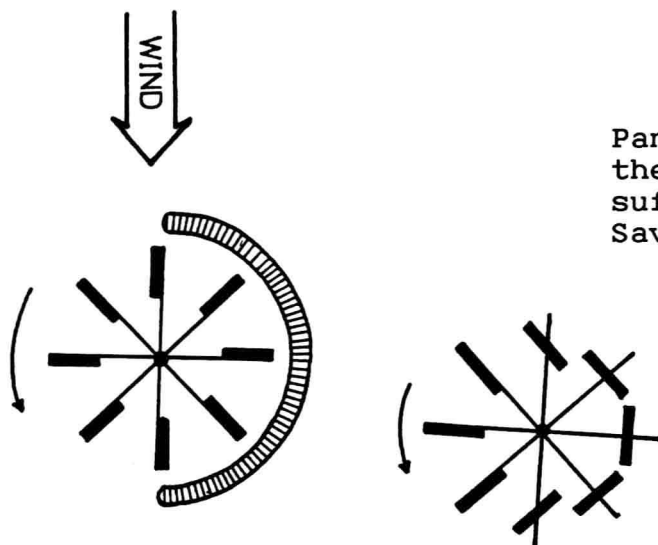


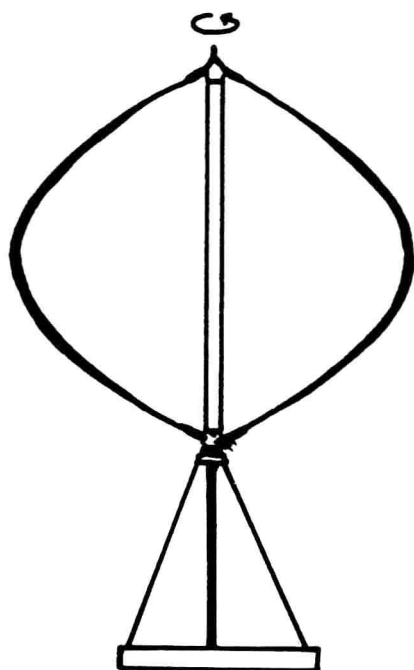
Figure 3: Schematic diagram of Savonius rotor (side view)

Savonius rotors are turned by the drag force of the wind mostly, rather than the lift force. They are therefore inefficient and turn very slowly. (See Sections 1.3 and 2.1 for explanations of drag and lift forces).



Panamones are turned entirely by the drag force of the wind. They suffer the same disadvantages as Savonius rotors.

Figure 4: Panamones
(plan views)



Cross flow or Darrieus wind turbines are attracting some attention at present. However they are unsuitable for water pumping because they cannot normally self-start. Even if they are modified to enable them to self-start they cannot produce sufficient torque to start a pump. They are difficult to protect from storm damage and have not yet been manufactured more cheaply than horizontal-axis rotors.

Figure 5: Schematic diagram of
Darrieus wind
turbine (side view)

The remainder of this Handbook concentrates on multi-bladed horizontal-axis windpumps as the only practical, commercially-available technology for water pumping at this time.

1.3 The wind energy resource

Many areas of the world are sufficiently windy for windpumps to be a realistic option for pumping water. Figure 6 shows a contour map of the average annual wind speeds for the world (Reference 1). It must be remembered that, in general, the basic requirement for wind to be a reasonable option for water pumping is that the average wind speed in the most critical month (i.e. the month where the demand for water is greatest in relation to the wind energy available) is greater than 2.5 m/s (6 mph or 5 knots). The wind will vary from day to day and month to month. It is important that there is sufficient wind available throughout the period when water is needed. If the water is for irrigation it may be needed for only a few months, but if the water is for domestic consumption, there must be sufficient wind all year. It is advantageous to have reliable windspeed data for at least a year to decide firstly whether a windpump is a possible option, and secondly what size of windpump to use, and how much water storage is needed.

This section briefly explains how to determine the energy available from the wind if the wind speed is known. Section 3.1 will explain how, where and how often to measure wind speeds.

The effect of wind speed

The power in the wind, and therefore its energy, is proportional to the cube of the wind velocity. This means that as the wind speed increases, the power available increases much faster. For example, in very light winds there is about 10 W/m² whilst in hurricane-level winds there is about 40,000 W/m². This extreme variability of the wind power strongly influences most aspects of system design, construction, siting, use and economy. In comparison, the solar energy resource is much less variable, there being about 100 W/m² in weak sunshine and 1000 W/m² in the strongest sunshine.

The equation describing the power in the wind is:

$$\boxed{\text{Power in W}} = \boxed{1/2} \times \boxed{\text{Density of air in kg/m}^3} \times \boxed{\text{Cross-sectional area in m}^2} \times \boxed{(\text{Velocity})^3 \text{ in m/s}}$$

The effect of air density

The density of the air affects the energy available to a very much lesser extent than the wind velocity. However it should not be ignored. The density of the air is affected by:

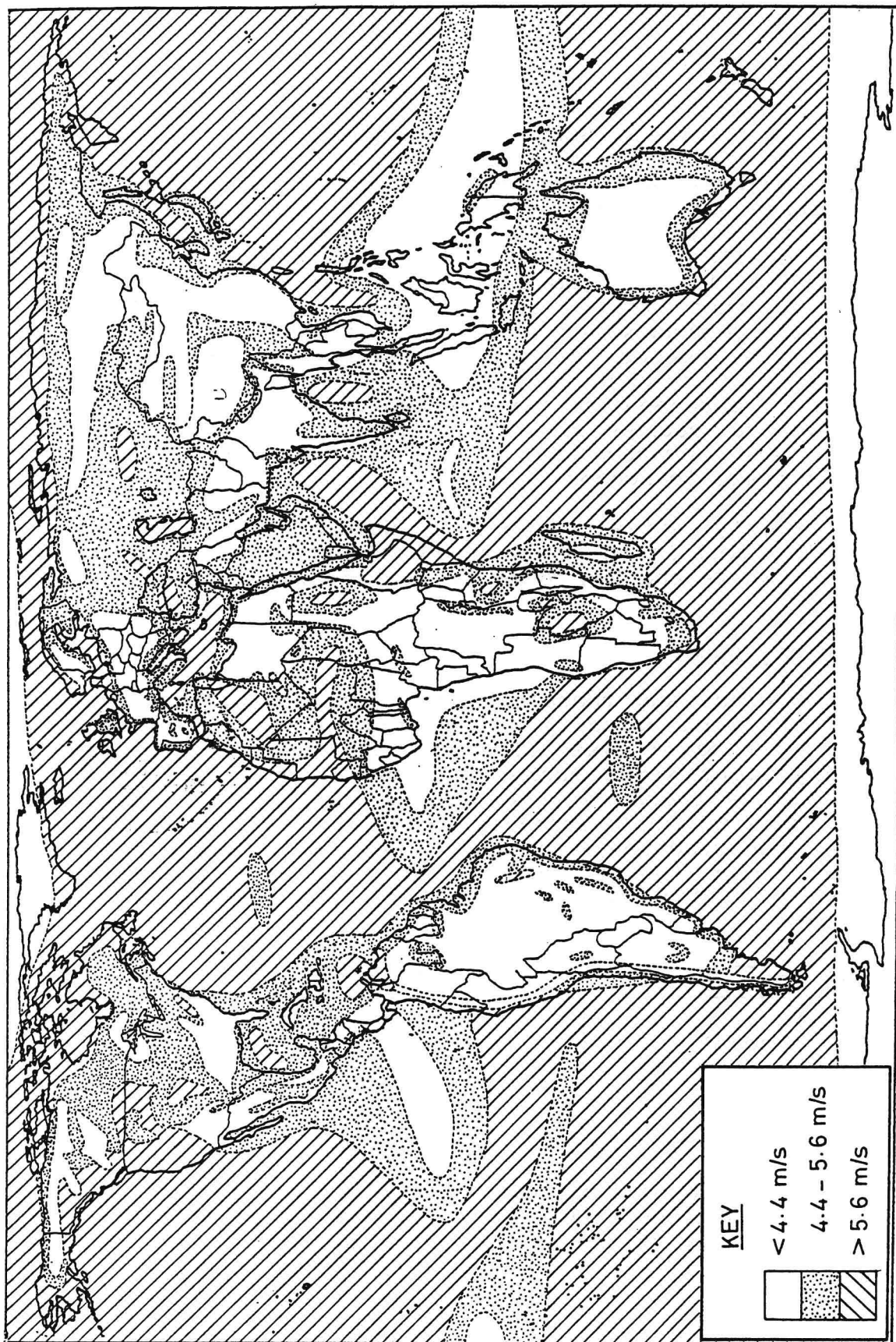


Figure 6: Global annual average wind speeds. (Redrawn from World Meteorological Society data in WMO Technical Note on Wind Energy. Reference 1)

Note - Very large local variations occur in wind speeds. This map should not be used for windpump siting. It is included to give a general indication only.

1. altitude
2. temperature
3. atmospheric pressure.

The effects of temperature and atmospheric pressure are very small compared with altitude and may therefore be ignored. Allowance should be made for altitude, however. For example at an altitude of 1000 metres the energy available from the wind at a given wind speed is reduced by 11%.

Table 1 gives the altitude correction factors which should be applied to the air density in order to calculate the available wind energy. Air density at sea level is 1.2kg/m^3 . Figure 7 shows the same information graphically on an energy-versus-wind speed graph.

Altitude in metres above sea level	0	1000	2000	3000
Air density correction factor	1.00	0.89	0.78	0.69

Table 1: Altitude correction factors for air density

Example: To find the air density at 2000 m

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 \boxed{\text{Air density at 2000 m}} & = & \boxed{\text{Air density at sea level}} \times \boxed{\text{Correction factor}} \\
 \text{Air density at 2000 m} & = & 1.2 \times 0.78 \\
 & = & 0.94 \text{ kg/m}^3
 \end{array}$$

However, the wind tends to blow at higher speeds at higher altitudes. This often more than compensates for the loss due to reduced air density.

Energy availability

Only part of the energy in the wind is available for use. To extract all the energy would require bringing the wind to rest which is impossible. The available energy is extracted by slowing down the wind and using some of its kinetic energy. The maximum amount of energy that can, even in theory, be physically extracted from the wind is 59.3% of the total available. In practice wind rotors are not perfectly efficient. Good ones will be able to extract 25-40% of the total kinetic energy.

To find the amount of energy available from the wind

The graph in figure 7 may be used to find out the amount of energy that is obtainable from the wind by a well-designed windpump in a typical wind regime.

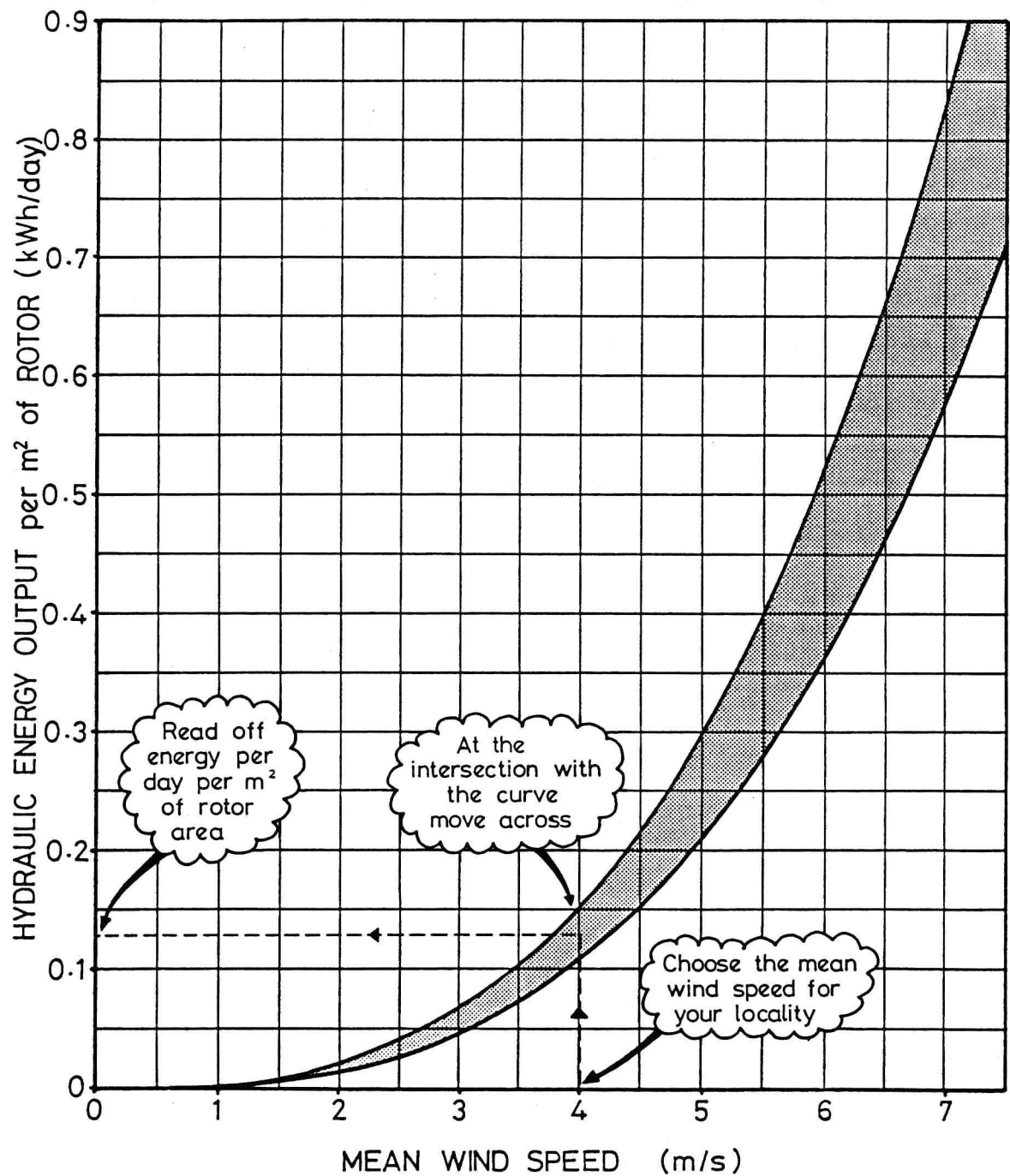


Figure 7: Approximate hydraulic energy output of a windpump rotor for various wind speeds